

TESTIMONY ON H.B. 5248: AN ACT CONCERNING COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES  
OF CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS ON OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING  
Labor and Public Employees Committee

Submitted by: Breanna Formanski, Central Connecticut State University, Student Intern  
National Association of Social Workers, Connecticut Chapter

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To the Distinguished Chairs of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

My name is Breanna Formanski; I am the current intern with the National Association of Social Workers, Connecticut Chapter (NASW/CT). I am testifying on behalf of my community as a young activist, and a senior at Central Connecticut State University.

I will be graduating this spring with my Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, plus a minor in Criminal Justice. This is why An Act Concerning Collateral Consequences of Convictions on Occupational Licensing held a particular interest to me at the succession of a supervision meeting with NASW/CT Executive Director, Steve Wanczyk-Karp.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 5248, which would require a thorough test to be conducted upon prior felons when seeking employment or an occupational licensure. This calls for individuals to go through a three-part test, meaning that the employer cannot just turn the person away; they must conduct the test to understand their past and capabilities.

H.B. 5248 will begin to knock down barriers which are in place for employment opportunities. It will provide people living with criminal records the chance to become a part of their community and society again without holding them back; which is supposed to be the purpose of punishment and deterrence. I know this because of the knowledge I have obtained from my minor.

Deterrence is the idea that there are particular tactics in place that keep a person from committing a crime. There is general deterrence, which are the things we see in everyday society that keep people from committing crimes; like knowing the consequences faced if you commit a crime, or the presence of visible surveillance cameras. Specific deterrence is meant for people who have committed a crime in the past and is designed to keep them from committing a crime again; like fines, incarceration, or probation.

This is important to note because the purpose of incapacitation and rehabilitation is to provide a penalty and lesson for a crime. While also hoping to restore a convicted person by helping them gain a constructive position in society. They can be shaped for society through vocational and

educational training with rehabilitative services, and this is when an occupational license would be so crucial to their reformed and continued path.

H.B. 5248 is a great step in allowing individuals living with a criminal record to support themselves and provide for their families, but there is much more to be done. It is crucial that individuals receive their promised return to society. In turn, our communities are benefitted as well through an enrichment of diversity due to their contributions and engagements.

Thank you for your time.

Breanna Formanski